



RESEARCH and ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)
Arabian Gulf University
College of Medicine and Medical Sciences

Research Ethics Approval Report

Proposal Title	Road Traffic Accidents as a Consequence of Drifting in the KSA
Reference No.	Student Research Records, 2012-2013
Period of Approval	1 Year
Principle Investigator	Dr. Feisal Subhan
Co investigators	Raniah Riyadh Hassan Aldhneem, Hayfa Ahmed Hassan, Lina Zaki Alnasrallah, Bushra Ali Albalawi, Rawan Khalid Albraik, Aroob Nassir Esa Alessa

To whom it may concern:

After reviewing the Family & Community Medicine Department records of student research for the year **2012-2013**, I confirm that the Research and Ethics Committee, Arabian Gulf University approved the above-mentioned research.

Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed.

Best Regards

Dr. Khaled Greish

Chairman, Research and Ethics Committee

Dated: 19th Feb , 2020





19th February 2020

Student Name : Dr. Raniah Riyadh Hassan Aldhneem
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Subject : Student Research Project

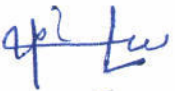
This is to certify that **Dr. Raniah Riyadh Hassan Aldhneem**, contributed in all the steps of the student research project titled, "**Road Traffic Accidents as a Consequence of Drifting in the KSA**" including protocol writing, data collection, data analysis and presentation of results, as part of community health activity in the department of Family & Community Medicine, College of Medicine and Medical Sciences at Arabian Gulf University.

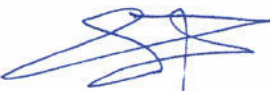
The research project included the following students and was supervised by **Dr. Feisal Subhan**, Department of Family & Community Medicine:

Raniah Riyadh Hassan Aldhneem	Hayfa Ahmed Hassan	Lina Zaki Alnasrallah
Bushra Ali Albalawi	Rawan Khalid Albraik	Aroob Nassir Esa Alessa

This research project was approved by the Research & Ethical Committee of the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences at Arabian Gulf University and presented as a poster and oral presentations during the **Student Research Day 2012-2013**, and as a scientific report (**Issue No. 3**), Department of Family & Community Medicine, College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University.

This certificate was given based on her request.


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Research Proposal:

Road Traffic Accidents as a Consequence of “Drifting” in the KSA

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Abstract

Car drifting is a serious problem as it may lead to damage of the body, loss of some organs, loss of public and private materials as well suffering borne by the parents of drifters, as they suffer because of the bad reputation of their son actions. Causes of popularity of this phenomenon are the desire to be famous, weak control of parents, media, websites and weakness of religious faith

The purpose of this study was to analyze road traffic accident data from drifters, investigate the lifestyle of drifters, and suggest lowering the risk of accidents caused by drifting. We will also recommend lifestyle modifications in drifting to improve quality of life and may suggest safe practices.

Our main finding in this study was that the majority of drifters are teenager students and they learned it and started it at an early age, with their friends being the most encouraging factor and their family the most discouraging factor. Most of them damaged cars and many knew a friend who was injured or killed by drifting. Camry & Hilux users seemed to have more dangerous behaviours compared to other car users.

Drifting has a negative effect on the socioeconomic and health state of the country. We think it is difficult to stop, but recommend it should be regulated so it is a legal activity in special areas, so to keep drifters busy but in a safe environment. This will save lives and reduce the socioeconomic and health cost burden.

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Introduction

Drifting requires skill, and is growing in popularity. There is potential for harm if the driver loses control of the car. While it wasn't up until recently that drifting became as popular as it is today, the history of drifting dates back to many years ago. Drivers have been using this technique as early as the 1930's in Grand Prix races. People didn't call it drifting back then, but throughout the 20th century it started as a racing technique used in motorsports.

Drifting which better known locally as "hajwalah" or "tafheet", where the car is intentionally spun several times at speed of 180 kph or more, this form of reckless stunt-driving is strongly condemned in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with strict sentences for drivers involved in fatal accidents.

Car drifting is a serious problem which may lead to damage of the body, loss of some organs, and loss of public and private property. It also affects the parents of the persons who drift; they suffer if their child is injured or killed and also due to the bad reputation of their child's actions. Causes of popularity of this phenomenon are the desire to be famous, weak control of parents, media and websites popularizing this and weakness of religious faith.

A published definition is "Drifting refers to a specific driving technique, as well as a type of motor sport based on that technique. It occurs when the wheels are pointing in a different direction to the direction the car is sliding overall. Drifting requires skill, and is growing in popularity. There is potential for harm if the driver loses control of the car." [1]

In the process, racers often drive dangerously close to traffic, barriers and spectators, who are watching from the sides without any protection. Drifters usually drive and damage local rental vehicles."Tafheet" practice and events occur with little to no concern for any vehicle occupants, other drivers or any spectator safety.

In videos posted to YouTube, large crowds are seen gathering by the side of the road to watch drivers skid their cars – often typical family sedans like Honda Accords and Hyundai Sonatas – through traffic at high speeds, sometimes heading in the wrong direction. These uploaded video give drivers' kudos within the culture even after vehicle damage, major injury or fatality and naturally after successful high speed skill displays. Tragically it terrorizes other highway users who are unaware of the event until they are in the middle of it and at risk of death or major injury.

Several of the clips show out of control cars crashing into spectators causing serious injury, or even death. One particularly graphic video that surfaced in the internet in May 2013 showed a car that rolled through a crowd as several passengers were thrown from vehicle. A middle-aged man in Saudi Arabia was been sentenced to execution by public beheading after killing two people while 'drifting' his car.

Causes of Drifting

Drifting is gaining popularity as it spreads all over the internet via social networking sites like MySpace and YouTube. There is a cult following for many drifters, who have earned such titles as 'The Drift King' or 'Drift Master' from their outrageous drifting antics. However, despite all the glory from enthusiasts, drifting is quickly becoming a public safety hazard and a nuisance for Saudi authorities.

“The driving problems are with young people,” Ali Abdul-Rahman Al-Mazyad, a Saudi columnist in Riyadh told The Media Line. “There are very little outlets for young people to enjoy themselves and kids basically do what they want.”

“There is also not such great education in schools about driving and respecting the road,” he said. “Drug use is also a contributing factor. These are the central problems.” [2]

During a New York Times investigation, their reported found that between drag races and the “drifting” shown in the videos, the Saudi streets came to resemble a cross between the movies *Death Race* and *The Fast and The Furious*. It seems that a great national boredom, or “tufush,” has seized the young men of Saudi, and with no public entertainment and few jobs, an underground car culture has flourished. Wealthier and middle-class men drag race Corvettes and Imprezas all night, but for the poorer, more desperately in need of excitement, only drifting cars through and around traffic will do. And the scene has created one crazy melting pot of young, angry desperation. “The idea behind drifting is, the economy and society don’t need you,” says Pascal Ménoret, an anthropologist with four years of field work in Riyadh. “They are mostly young Bedouins who recently moved to the city, and whose lives are marked by suffering and self-destructive behavior.” [3]

Literature Review

Drifting is gaining popularity as it spreads all over the internet via social networking sites like MySpace and YouTube. There is a cult following for many drifters, who have earned such titles as ‘The Drift King’ or ‘Drift Master’ from their outrageous drifting antics. However, despite all the glory from enthusiasts, drifting is quickly becoming a public safety hazard and a nuisance for Saudi authorities.

There have been several drifting accidents which have resulted in fatalities over the years. The most infamous 'Abu Kab' drifting accident occurred in Riyadh in 2005 when a Navy officer decided to try his hand at performing the Arab Drift. He rented a Honda Accord and allowed 4 young boys to ride with him at a speed of 120 kph. The officer crashed and 3 of his passengers were killed. He was found guilty of negligence and sentenced to death by a Jeddah court. [4]

The Saudi government adopted the tougher law this past spring to deter Arab drifting and joyriding. Previously, fatalities would have been classified as "accidental" but now they are classified as "criminal negligence" which carries a much heavier punishment than the prior. Government officials hope that such a serious punishment will deter future Arab drifters from setting foot, or tire for that matter, on Saudi roads with the intention of performing daredevil stunts.

Jeddah's traffic department has recorded a whopping 2,000 cases of motorists running red lights over a two-week period. Lt. Col. Zaid Al-Hamzi, spokesman of the city's traffic department, said 60 percent of the violators were detected by the Saher system and the rest by security patrols. He said teenagers were responsible for most of the violations. A total of 200 violators were arrested, detained for 48 hours and fined SR500 each. Al-Hamzi said that during the same period, about 1,500 offenses were detected for drifting, passenger overloading, hiding of license plates, driving without seat belts, speeding, and talking on mobile phones while driving. Al-Hamzi urged motorists to abide by the country's traffic laws for the safety of all road users. [5]

The World Health Organization found Saudi Arabia to have the world's highest number of deaths from road accidents, which now make up the country's principal cause of death in adult males aged 16 to 36. First reported by the Saudi daily Arab News, the study found that 6,485

people had died and more than 36,000 were injured in over 485,000 traffic accidents during 2008 and 2009. [2]

An average of 19 Saudi Arabian residents die on the country's roads each day, a report by the Kingdom's General Directorate of Traffic has revealed. [7] In an interview with *Arab News* in September, the associate vice president and transportation systems director of Middle East Operations at traffic management consultancy Iteris Inc., Glenn N. Havinoviski, said infrastructure wasn't an issue, but "when you see people turning left out of the far right lane and traffic cutting through parking lots and frontage roads, there are clearly some issues with discipline." [6]

Study Aim and Objectives

There are very few publications on the drifting and none were found in the on the Middle Eastern population. The aim of the study is to document and analyze road traffic accident data from drifters.

Objectives

- Analyze road traffic accident data from drifters.
- Investigate the lifestyle of drifters.
- Suggest lowering the risk of accidents caused by drifting.
- Recommend designated areas for drifting and attracting drifters to these areas.
- Suggest safe practices for drifting.
- Investigate risk factors for drifting.
- Suggest lifestyle modifications in drifting to improve quality of life and better future.
- The benefit of this work is that this research will help in raising the level of awareness the society by explaining the side effects and harms of drifting.

Methods

1. Study design: Random, cross-sectional study
2. Study population and sample size: This will be a random cross-sectional study of 100 male subjects, aged 16 to 40 years, who will be recruited by personal contacts and online forums of the drifting community. Exclusion criteria will be subjects who do not drift. All subjects will complete a questionnaire.
3. Data collection: A questionnaire has been prepared and will be validated to make sure it is reliable. It will pilot tested in AGU before being made available to drifters via an online questionnaire.

Variables: The research is based on questionnaire (see Appendix) results recording age, martial status, occupation, educational level. Other questions are age of drifting initiation, what factors encourage you to drift, what factors discourage you to drift, car model, presence or absence of a driving license, drift frequency, seat belt use, frequency of car damage, frequency of being caught or arrested by police, whether any friends died or were injured by drifting and which areas do you prefer to drift.

Data Analysis

Method of analysis: All data will be presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation unless otherwise stated. Package used: IBM SPSS Statistics 19. Statistical tests used: Paired t-test, linear and multiple regression analyses.

The data will be analysed by SPSS version 19. The results will be expressed as means ($\pm$ SD).

Odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) will be calculated.

The Pearson's Chi squared (χ^2) and Fisher's exact tests were used to determine statistically significant associations of categorical variables. For quantitative variables, an unpaired t-test was used.

Results

A. Descriptive results

All 105 subjects in this study were male and all were from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The mean age ($\pm$ SD) of all our subjects was 18.44 ± 3.33 years. Their age range was 14 – 36 years. Their age of initiation i.e. the age they started drifting, was 15.10 ± 1.86 years. Their age of initiation range was 12 – 26 years. The mean number of times they drifted in one week was 2.63 ± 1.77 times.

B. Frequency

94 % of the drifters in this study were single (Figure 1). The remaining 6 % of drifters were equally either married or divorced. In terms of age, most subjects in our study were young. 54 % of drifters were aged 14 to 17 years, 29 % were aged 18 to 21 years and only 17 % were aged 22 years and above (Figure 2).

In terms of occupation, 71.4 % of the drifters in this study were students, while 21.9 % were unemployed and only 7 % were other i.e. employed (Figure 3). 91.4 % of our drifters started at a young age (12 – 17 years), 8.5 % started from 18 to 21 and only 1 % of people started to drift after 22 years of age (Figure 4).

In our population, friends and free time were considered as the major encouraging factors for drifting with percentages of 35.2 % and 23.8 %, respectively (Figure 5). The remaining 41 % of encouraging factors included after exams, after football matches, stress and other factors. The greatest factors which helped discourage drifters in our study

to drift were family (34.3 %). Other discouraging factors included police, religion, teachers, fear and other factors (Figure 6).

69.5 % of drifters in our study revealed that there was damage to their own vehicle or to others vehicles during the time they were drifting (Figure 7). A minority of only 30.5 % reported that there no car damage during the time they were drifting. 38.1 % of our drifters admitted they had been arrested for drifting on at least on one occasion (Figure 8). The majority were not arrested.

72.4 % of our drifters would participate in drifting 1-3 time/week, while only 27.6 % would get involved 4-7 times per week.

